

CLAIMS

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1. A terminal for processing digital audio-visual or multimedia data including a data processing system and a memory, characterised in that the data processing system stores in the memory user profile data relating to the characteristics or preferences of a plurality of types of user of the terminal.

5 2. A terminal as claimed in claim 1, where the user profile is defined in relation to a mode of operation of the terminal.

*a* 10 3. A terminal as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where the user profile is defined in relation to the connection of an external device.

*a* 15 4. A terminal as claimed in any preceding claim, where a user profile is personalised in relation to the identity of the operator.

*a* 20 5. A terminal as claimed in any preceding claim, where the user profile data includes resource data indicating the resources within the terminal accessible by each user.

6. A terminal as claimed in claim 5 where the user profile data includes priority data indicating the priority of each user in respect of access to one or more resources of the terminal.

*a* 25 7. A terminal as claimed in any preceding claim where the user profile data comprises data relating to the attributes of information to be supplied to each user.

*a* 8. A terminal as claimed in any preceding claim where the user profile data comprises data relating to the actions permitted by each user.

*a* 9. A terminal as claimed in any preceding claim where some or all of the characteristics or preferences of the user profile data are modifiable during normal operation of the terminal by an operator.

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*Claim 1*

10. A terminal as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ where some or all of the user profile data is predetermined by the data processing system of the terminal.

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*Claim 1*

11. A terminal as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ where the terminal comprises a data processing system comprising, inter alia, a virtual machine and an object oriented application interface layer comprising a plurality of class libraries.

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12. A terminal as claimed in claim 11, in which the application interface layer may comprise one or more class libraries defining the operation of the virtual machine with respect to user profile data.

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13. A terminal as claimed in claim 11 or 12, in which the application interface layer comprises a class library dedicated to memory management of user profile data in the memory cache of the terminal.

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*Claim 13*

14. A terminal as claimed in ~~any of claims 11 to 13~~ in which the application interface layer comprises one or more user profile class libraries adapted to define the characteristics of the data to be stored in the user profiles.

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15. A terminal as claimed in claim 14, in which the user profile class libraries comprise a generic class library associated with the definition of generic characteristics of user profile data, and one or more sub-class libraries associated with the definitions of characteristics associated with a specific user profile.

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*Claim 1*

16. A terminal as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ comprising a decoder adapted to receive data transmissions in a digital transmission system.

17. A method of operation of a terminal for processing digital audio-visual or multimedia data including a data processing system and a cache memory characterised by the step of storing in the terminal memory user profile relating to the characteristics or preferences of plurality of users of the terminal.

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18. A terminal for processing digital audio-visual or multimedia data substantially as herein described.

19. A method of operation of a terminal for processing digital audio-visual or multimedia data substantially as herein described.

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